



Men Against Violence Against Women

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Dr. Russell Foote, *CHAIRMAN*. Donald Berment, *SECRETARY*. Desmond Persad, *TREASURER*.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

On behalf of **Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)**, we the undersigned, would firstly like to thank the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development for giving us this opportunity to contribute to the resolution of this burning issue, **Domestic Violence** at the Micro Level, **Gender Based Violence** at the Mezzo Level and **Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development** at the Macro Level.

At the **Micro Level**, Domestic Violence has been and continues to make family life stressful and dysfunctional for children, teenagers, and adults in the affected families at the Primary Level of the Ripple Effect Theory (RET), eventually affecting neighbouring communities, the Secondary Level of (RET) and finally affecting the National Community and Government at the Tertiary Level of (RET). This theory is submitted on the CD attached, along with the other references in the Report.

At the **Mezzo Level**, Gender Based Violence, a front burner in the development stage by academics and elsewhere, mainly Civil Society, expands Violence to women, men and children, by paying attention to the manner in which Violence is perpetrated by Institutions, Policies, Rules, Procedures and Practices, Acts of Parliament and other instruments designed for the development of societies. The affect is then experienced in the physical, emotional and spiritual domains.

A critical and consistent analysis at the **Macro Level**, Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development is the way forward and holds the key to the eventual reduction and elimination of Violence in Society.

Enclosed within, is a comprehensive organizational counselling, support and research profile (CSR) of **Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)**, a non-governmental organization, with Charitable Body Status, which has been working with people as individuals and in communities, across Trinidad and Tobago since 1994, registering as a non-profit company in 1998 and today, up to date with its Annual Returns and Income Tax Statements.

To this end, the document/status report highlights the service oriented philosophy of **MAVAW**, its innovative sustainable structure, the organizational objectives, various outreach strategies and efforts and the major contributions of 2 Directors, Dr. Foote and Donald Berment and 1 Formal Management member, Dr. Robert Lee Moultrie. The list of work done by members like David Law, Johnny Bharath, the 2 other first members of **MAVAW**; Dr. George Gowrie and Dr. Lennox Grant, is long and will be referenced on the CD with the Report, where possible.

MAVAW's contribution to child, adolescent and family empowerment, is positioned within a **Community Development Framework**, in both an operational and development fashion. The Organizational Structure of **MAVAW** is crafted to allow participation at 3 Levels, **High Profile, Formal and Activist**, which facilitates faster decision making and a consultative approach, alongside real opportunity for its sustainable development.

MAVAW's outreach responses to groups and communities have been stymied by an inability to offer on its own violation, workshops, programs and interventions, as a result of inadequate finances. However, individual members, have been self financing numerous outreaches on their own and together with other members.

In addition, through intense commitment, sheer will, intellectual, social and emotional capital, our members have been and continue to reach the parties in dysfunctional relationships, in different parts of Trinidad and Tobago and to Magistrate Courts, requesting reports on Domestic Violence matters, before them.

MAVAW is a man's organization, but has women as friends and consultants. Over the years, we have identified Acts of Parliament which need closer attention to fully encompass Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Said Acts have been noted and the concerns expressed in the following pages and added as references on the CD.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The reduction and eventual elimination of **Domestic Violence**, requires development of all sectors of the economy, in a manner that redounds to the benefit of individuals, groups, organizations and communities.

This is a critical requirement in order to provide support for households/families to reduce the impact of other factors, on the propensity to be violent and for building the **self-esteem** of all under purview, so that we will all be literate enough, to be our brothers and sisters keepers.

As a result, **MAVAW** proposes the following:

1. The adoption of an understanding of **Development** that prioritizes competency building of individuals, groups, organizations and communities in various spheres like, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, sports, agriculture, business and technical-vocational. (Dr. Foote).
2. Revitalization and rebuilding of communities, using institutional and implementation frameworks that are driven by the **ideas of people** living in such areas. This will bring greater participation of teenagers, adults and households in such communities. (Dr. Foote).
3. Return fully to **Community Policing**, which provides a great opportunity for Police Officers to build healthy relationships between households and their members.
4. Alignments between development of Child Care, Youth, Ageing and Family Development Policies, introducing an **Infant to Toddler Partnership Programme (ITTPP)** like the Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP).
5. Putting **Community Building Efforts** at the **Centre** of the **National Development Agenda**, bearing in mind that communities are made up of households and the realization that **development** at this level would provide a more solid platform for **literacy building and violence reduction**.

6. Introduction of a **Family Research and Development Centre** as an independent and autonomous body staffed by a Director and eight researchers and guided by best practice policies.
7. Introduction of a **Nationwide Male Empowerment Program**, offering Workshops and Training, nurturing Family Days on a Quarterly Basis.
8. Appointment of a **National Family Council/Board**, with responsibility for developing a **National Family Policy**, research and data driven interventions and development programs, targeting all family types in Trinidad and Tobago.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed Dr. Russell Foote, Chairman.


SignedDonald Berment, Secretary/Counsellor.

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